

AmeriCorps

In 2012-13, 563 AmeriCorps members served through the Washington Service Corps. This statewide intermediary program enables placement of members in rural underserved areas of the state with limited resources. Services to communities cover all six focus areas, and the measured impact is great. More than 50,000 individuals were trained by AmeriCorps members on personal disaster preparedness and 32,460 reported increase in knowledge and confidence in responding to a disaster. A total of 7,181 students completed K-12 academic support program run by AmeriCorps members and 92 percent of those students improved at least one benchmark. More than 31,000 individuals were trained on energy efficiency and environmentally conscious practices. A total of 794 local veterans participated in volunteer projects and days of service and more than half plan to return for additional volunteer opportunities.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The Yakama Nation Tribal Council is a representative of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, a Native American group whose reservation was created in 1855 from a treaty with the United States Government. The reservation, at 1.4 million acres, is the largest in the Northwest and lies in the midst of extreme poverty. The average income for the White Swan community is \$15,000 per year. On February 12, 2011, a fire devastated the reservation, and 19 reservation homes were destroyed and 46 suffered from the extreme winds that occurred during these fires. Seventy-six children were displaced by the disaster. AmeriCorps NCCC team members repaired the roofs of four homes and began interior work on an apartment, installing 4,300 square feet of shingles and 922 square feet of insulation, and hanging 32 sheets of drywall.

AmeriCorps VISTA

In order to address Yakima County's growing gang-involved youth situation, the county's Human Services Department developed a 15-member AmeriCorps VISTA program. With a poverty rate of 34 percent and high unemployment, there are an estimated 60 gangs with a membership close to 2,500. Five AmeriCorps VISTA members served a total of 800 at-risk children and youth, working with Sunnysides Promise, Safe Yakima Valley's 100 Jobs for 100 Kids, Rod's House, Central Lutheran Church, and Yakima Juvenile Court Gang Free Initiative. In addition, 200 youth obtained summer jobs as a result of the work of AmeriCorps VISTA members.

Senior Corps

For the last three years, Steve Vradenburg, a Senior Companion volunteer with Volunteers of America Western Washington has been paired with his client, Art, in Seattle. Art is an 89-year-old World War II veteran who lost his sight and a limb during the Battle of Normandy in 1944, yet still lives independently with the help of his companion. Steve was a combat medic during the Vietnam War and received two Purple Hearts for his service. He helps Art continue to remain independent by grocery shopping, gardening, and participating in other activities together. The pair continues to learn from each other and cherish the time they spend together.

Social Innovation Fund

Washington Youth Soccer has been awarded an initial annual grant of \$100,000 by Social Innovation Fund (SIF) intermediary the U.S. Soccer Foundation, which they will match dollar-for-dollar. With this support they are operating Soccer for Success, the U.S. Soccer Foundation's innovative after-school youth development program that uses soccer as a tool to combat childhood obesity and promote healthy lifestyles for children in low-income urban communities. Through this Soccer for Success program, over 800 youth will be provided with physical activity, nutrition education, mentorship, and family engagement opportunities. Washington Youth Soccer is very experienced in offering high quality soccer instruction and this opportunity will allow them to utilize the Soccer for Success curriculum to expand and enhance their current soccer programming, by serving children in low income communities.

Volunteer Generation Fund

In 2012-13, Volunteer Generation Fund grants funded a range of projects that place Volunteer Centers of Washington (VCW) in the role of key mobilizers, collaborators, and professionals in the field of volunteer management. Many aspects of the projects capitalize on the increased capacity of volunteer centers, with strategies ranging from engaging volunteer leaders, opportunities for veterans and active duty military volunteers, trainings for local agencies to better manage volunteers and mobilizing skilled volunteers to meet the most pressing needs of our communities. Statewide, the Volunteer Generation Fund helped leverage 10,141 volunteers serving more than 250,000 hours.